

Newsletter

A Letter from the President

Hello again from York, PA

It is starting to warm up here, but not so in Caroga. Pictures from the first week in April provided by our secretary Nancy Zeiser and our treasurer Brian Drain confirm a good bit of snow on the ground and a lake still encased in ice. This will change, but it is not quite time to put the boats in.

WE have been busy planning for the summer and moving forward on some new ideas for our membership that were conveyed through the member activity survey that was put out over the winter.

WHAT we want to do is use this survey to offer activities to our members that they like to participate in. Let's look at a few of the activities that were mentioned often. Swimming and boating were mentioned the most, but those activities are up to you. Kayaking, hiking, and walking were the other areas mentioned the most. (See the complete survey results in this issue.)

If you indicated an interest in helping with any of the new endeavors from the survey you need to contact me. Use wclaupdates@gmail.com or call 518-835-4293 after May 24th. The biggest areas of interest from the survey were phone callers, cornhole tournament organizer(s), youth events organizer(s), etc.

No suggestion is impossible if you will take the lead. We have 220+ households in our membership. That is a lot of people—people that can help us offer more to our WCLA membership—but, we can't do it without you.

WHY do we need you? Every member of your WCLA board has areas they are responsible for, some more than one. In order to offer more activities to our members we need everyone to get involved in areas they indicated in the survey they were interested in, and also to take leadership positions in those areas.

WHEN is now! If you are passionate about an activity please contact me and we can talk about the possibilities.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AROUND THE LAKE!

Don Hopper
WCLA President

Spring Edition
May 2019



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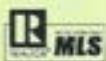
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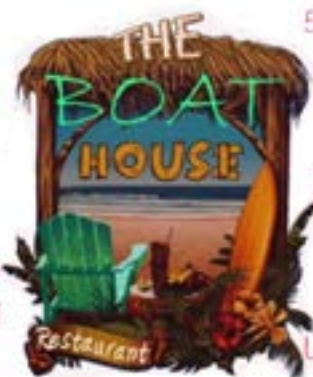
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Weed Update:

A Letter in support of grant applications for the town's Lake Management Program and a DEC assigned Steward on the Carogas.

I, Donald Hopper, President of the West Caroga Lake Association, am writing this in support of the Lake Management Program that is currently in place on the Caroga Lakes (East and West) under the direction of Gene Centi. We appreciate the efforts involved in running the harvesting program as well as Gene's efforts in educating Caroga residents as to the procedures involved and what can be harvested. He has been to association meetings to present information and also field questions from our members. The program is essential to the health of our lakes and we hope you would give every consideration to grant applications at this time. We are sure that any monies received will be used wisely.

It also came to my attention that the DEC was planning on assigning a Steward to the Caroga Campgrounds. This will be of great benefit to the health of our lakes. I also understand that some in the town have suggested that this person be used in other areas not on the Carogas. I would hope that if the DEC deemed it important to put a Steward at the Campgrounds that

this person stay on the Caroga Lakes. There are plenty of areas on East and West Caroga that could be monitored more fully with the help of an official from the state if time away from the campgrounds was available. The West Caroga Lake Association appreciates the Towns efforts on these programs and hopes they continue. Thank you

REMINDER!

The town's Lake Management Program includes harvesting of weeds. The only weeds that can be harvested are those that are designated as invasive species. For the Caroga Lakes that means milfoil. Other weeds can not be harvested as part of this program. ■



Geese Population Control

Information regarding the WCLA egg addling license and request for volunteers.

The WCLA has a license to addle goose eggs to help control the population around the lakes. Goose egg addling is a wildlife management method of population control for Canada geese and other bird species. The process basically prevents the development of the eggs. Board member Walt "Jim" Hogan is in charge of this program. If you know of the location of a nest

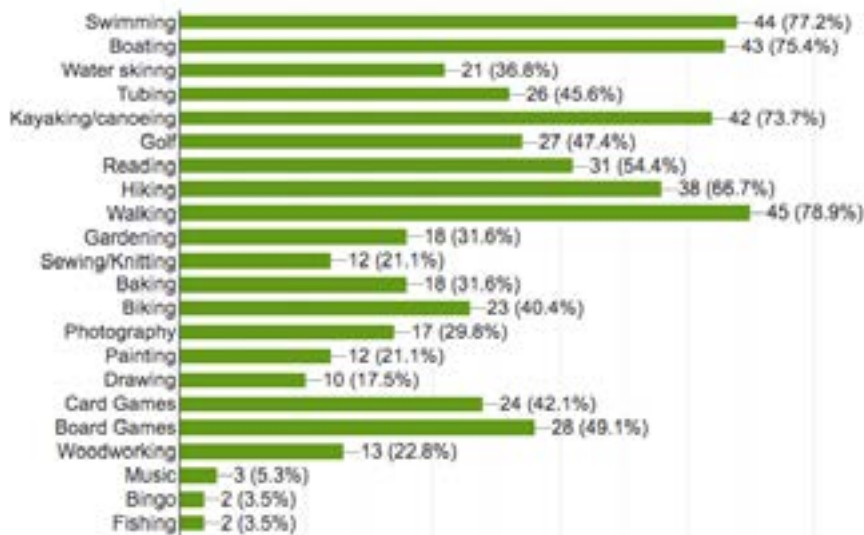
around the lake please contact Jim immediately. *We are not allowed to addle eggs after the end of May.* Some of you indicated in the survey that you would be willing to help with this program. Please contact Jim as soon as you receive this and he will explain what help he is in need of (if not for this year then for next year). Jim can be reached at 607-544-4037. ■

Survey Results:

Below are some results of the WCLA activity survey we have received so far, a total of 57 responses.

These results and any additional we receive will be discussed by the board over the summer. If you have not voiced your opinion, please do so at your earliest convenience. Find the "Activities Survey" link on the website under the Members tab.

Activities you are interested in:



Additional Suggestions Included:

Mahjong, Yoga, Horseback Riding and Bingo

Fire Department Update

The Caroga Fire Company is getting closer to breaking ground on their new home.

The Caroga Fire Company is getting closer to breaking ground on their new home. They are waiting for various local and APA (adirondack park agency) approvals.

However, we can share with you this approved statement regarding a Dollar General store in Caroga:

The DG store will sit on approx 2.4 acres. The official subdivision of the Fire house property has yet to be approved by both the Town of Caroga and the APA. Upon approval, final design and engineering will be completed. The Fire Company feels that the arrival of DG to the Town will provide a much needed shot in the arm for availability of mercantile goods, add to the property and sales tax base, and provide jobs for the community. ■



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Announcements: THINGS TO KNOW

TRAFFIC PATTERN ON SHORE ROAD:

The new traffic patterns for the Shore Road will go in place this summer.

As per the town, this is to be on a trial basis.

The road will be one way from Bath road out to Rt. 29A and one way from Chapel road out to Rt.10. The main enties to our beautiful shore road will be Bath, Grove, and Chapel roads. It will still be two way between these points

4th of JULY FLARE PICK-UP:

The annual flare lighting is a traditional part of the WCLA. Over the years the board has endeavored to deliver your flares with varying success.

The board has decided that starting this year flares should be picked-up at designated spots if you would like to participate in the flare lighting.

However, if you are not able to get to a pick-up spot please call Don Hopper at 717-835-4293 and we can make other arrangements.

NOTE: We will also have flares available at our General meeting at the Chapel on Saturday June 29 @ 10:00 am.

PICK UP SPOTS:

Ellen Wright
160 South Shore Road West

Chris Cram
203 North Shore Road

Don Hopper
156 South Shore Road West

Al Zeina
183 East Shore Road

Walt "Jim" Hogan
196 East Shore Road

GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER INFO:

Nancy Mueller from the New York Federation of lake associations (NYFOLA) will be joining us as our guest speaker at the general meeting on June 29th.

She will speak on the health of New York lakes in general and talk to us about CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment program) which is a water quality testing program that we will be doing this summer.

Join us June 29th, 2019 at the Chapel at 10am.





Photo by Don Hopper

2019 TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE:

WCLA will be participating in the town wide garage sale held on the last Saturday in July again this year.

Last year we raised \$683 for our organization.

Once again, we are looking for donations of items for our sale. Please be sure all items are clean and in working order.

Please drop off donations anytime after June 28th at the Hopper Camp 156 S. Shore Rd. West Caroga Lake.

Photo by Emily Ohmart



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR ONLINE FEATURES!

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE:

Annual association dues are \$15 for each household that wishes to maintain active membership status with the WCLA (due by June 30th). Last year we introduced a new feature on our website that allows you to pay your dues online! A \$0.76 convenience fee is added to the total cost to cover processing fees.

www.wclainfo.com/dues

SIGN-UP FOR CHICKEN DINNER:

Our website also includes an easy way for you to sign-up and reserve your spots for the annual chicken dinner.

www.wclainfo.com/chicken

DONATE:

The WCLA appreciates the support of its membership, without which we would not be able to do many of the wonderful things you read about in these Newsletters. If you'd like to donate to the general fund or fish stocking fund, you now have the option to do this online through our website!

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Water Testing

Summer 2019

WCLA is participating in water testing this summer through a program called CSLAP. As listed in the announcements section, Nancy Mueller from NYSFOLA will be at our membership meeting on June 29 at the Chapel at 10:00 am to speak about the program and the health of New York Lakes in general. Below is some background information about the program.

The New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a cooperative effort between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). The goal of CSLAP is to implement scientific research and educational outreach using volunteers to collect information and samples on a representative sample of New York State's 7500 lakes, ponds, and

reservoirs. Volunteer monitors collect information every two weeks during the summer during a total of eight sampling sessions. Information collected includes physical and chemical parameters and the perceptions of lake users. In addition, the program provides options for gathering biological information. Volunteers perform some processing on lake samples, freeze them overnight, and then send the samples to qualified NYS labs for analysis. This program began in 1986 with 25 lakes around the state. Over 200 NYS lakes have participated in CSLAP over the years. Several states have implemented similar programs, and the comparable data, lake assessments and protocols provide the capability to compare some of the results nationally. This stability in labs and sampling protocol enable historical comparisons by lake and within New York State. ■

Tidbits of History

Enjoy some of these fun facts and tidbits of history about Caroga Lake and the surrounding areas.

- The area of the current Town of Caroga was first settled around 1783.

- The town was created in 1842 from parts of the towns of Bleecker, Johnstown, and Stratford.

- The name of the town is an altered spelling of Garoga [Creek], which flows south out of town towards the Mohawk River.

- The population of the town in 1850 was 589, according to that year's census. The current population is approximately 1200.

- In 1892, by action of the New York State legislature, Caroga Lake and surrounding areas became part of the newly formed Adirondack Park. The park is three times the size of Yellowstone

National Park and home to a plethora of lakes, rivers, streams, and mountain peaks. Forty six (46) of these mountain peaks have elevations over 4,000 feet.

Who was Nick Stoner?

What do you know about the person chosen as a symbol of our town? Most know of the monument to Major Nicholas Stoner that was dedicated at Caroga Recreational Park (the current golf course) on August 21, 1929. The bronze statue sculpted by Joseph Pollia of New York City was unveiled by two children who were sixth generation descendents of Nick Stoner. There have been volumes written about Nick Stoner. Here I would like to highlight Nick Stoner the soldier. After the Revolutionary war had started, some

settlers like the Stoners gathered around the forts of Maytown and Johnstown, the Stoners around Johnstown. In 1977 Nick's father, brother, and Nicholas, only 15 years old, enlisted in the army. Nick soon was passed from drummer boy into the ranks. Nick was at the battle of Saratoga, was in the Rhode Island Campaign, at Valley Forge, at the capture of Major Andre at West Point, and at Yorktown.

After the war, he built a cabin in what is now the Town of Caroga and spent years as an active trapper and hunter. This was interrupted by a three year stint in the army during the War of

1812. During the war he was at Sackett's Harbor and Plattsburgh. He was more often the Chief of Scouts for General Dodge of Johnstown. During that time he became friends with James Fennimore Cooper. It is thought that Cooper took Nicholas as the original Leather Stocking in his series of five books "The Leatherstocking Tales" published between 1823 and 1841. The town of Cooperstown, NY was named after William Cooper, a land speculator, county judge, and father of James Fenimore Cooper. Nicholas Stoner died in 1853 and was buried in Kingsborough Cemetery in Gloversville, NY. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 29 General Meeting
Saturday, June 29th, 2019
10am • Caroga Chapel

JULY 4 Annual Boat Parade
Tuesday, July 4th, 2019
4pm • Theme: Star Wars
Meet on the water in front of Sherman's.

JULY 13 Chicken BBQ
Saturday, July 13th, 2019
5pm-8pm Social, Dinner
& Annual Meeting
Nick Stoner Inn

JULY 15 **AUG 18**
Caroga Lake Music Festival
July 15th - August 18th, 2019
Visit Carogaarts.org to learn more.

JULY 27 Town-Wide Yard Sale
Saturday, July 27th, 2019
Donate items to WCLA sale
(call 835-4293 if you have items to donate)

Notice: Ice Cream Social - CANCELLED

As of now, the Ice Cream Social originally scheduled for August 8th is cancelled due to the closing of the Boathouse.

If you are interested in advertising in next year's newsletters, contact us by phone, email or Facebook to learn more.

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To this day, our purpose remains "to be concerned with the preservation and improvement of the recreational and residential environment of the West Caroga Lake Area."

SEE YOU AROUND
THE LAKE,
SUMMER 2019!



Photo by Don Hopper